



Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar

News Release

Communications Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Businesses, schools, nonprofits, houses of worship asked to help register voters in September

AUSTIN – The Travis County Tax Office is asking the community to participate in voter registration activities during the month of September, including hosting local voter registration drives and helping to promote the new Text2Register messaging service.

Bruce Elfant, the Travis County tax assessor-collector and voter registrar, is requesting the local community become involved in the Great Travis County Voter Registration Challenge, a year-long public service initiative to register 90 percent of the county's eligible voters. To reach that goal, the county will need to add 100,000 voters to its voter registration roll.



September is an important month in that effort. The Travis County Commissioners Court is expected to issue a proclamation on Sept. 8 recognizing September as Voter Registration Awareness Month.

The tax office is placing extra emphasis on certain weeks of the month. It also is offering to train groups of 10 more to become Volunteer Deputy Registrars.

- Education Week, targeting high schools, vocational/trade schools, colleges and universities, goes through Saturday, Sept. 7.
- Civic Week, Sept. 7-13, will involve local businesses, food banks, shelters and city governments.
- Community Week, Sept. 14-20, is a grassroots effort with outreach to and by nonprofits, family, friends and neighbors.

- Houses of Worship Week, Sept. 21-27, requesting churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and meeting houses hold voter registration drives before and after services. Also asking pastors, imams, rabbis and worship leaders to ask their congregations to take out their cellphones at the start of service, request they text “Register” to 48683 (I Vote) to receive a postage-paid voter registration application.

Sept. 22 is the National Voter Registration Day. Elfant will take part in a Voter Registration Day celebration at the Austin Community College Highland Mall campus.

Anyone wanting to participate or hold an event for registration month, can email the tax office at Tax_Office@TravisCountyTX.gov (there is an underscore between tax and office in this email address). The tax office is also looking for more businesses and organizations to become voter registration partners. Information on partnering with the tax office is available at www.TravisCountyTax.org.

Want to help but too busy to volunteer or host an event? Please spread the word about Text2Register by using the logo as your Facebook profile picture for September, tweeting it out to friends and/or placing it on your website.

Voter registration is nonpartisan. You do not declare a political party when you register in Texas and no one registering voters is permitted to ask your political affiliation.